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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **C nfirmation No. 5655**
Hiroshi FUKADA et al. : Docket No. 2001_0702A
Serial No. 09/874,067 : Group Art Unit 1722
Filed June 6, 2001 : Examiner T.T. Nguyen
PUNCH AND DIE

9/KW
6/19/03

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement dated May 16, 2003, issued in the above-identified application, Applicant hereby provisionally elects the claims of Group I corresponding to claims 1-7 drawn to a punch or die for compressing tablets, classified in class 425, subclass 345. Election is made with traverse.

It is submitted that Groups I, II and III, should be combined and examined together. The claims of Group II, claims 8-12, are related to Group I, since they are directed to a method for manufacturing tablets using the tablet machine of claim 7 (Group I), which includes the punch of claim 1 (Group I). Claim 13 of Group III is related to Group I, since it is directed to a tablet which is manufactured according to the method of claim 8 (Group II), which uses the tablet machine of claim 7 (Group I), including the punch of claim 1 (Group I). In other words, it is submitted that since the claims of Groups I, II and III are all related, the Examiner can readily search and examine these claims together.

Serial No. 09/874,067

Conf. No: 5655

Page 2

Claims 8-12, and 13, should be rejoined for examination in this application upon allowance of claim 1, because they are all directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1. Claims 8-12 are directed to a method for manufacturing tablets using the tablet machine of claim 7 which includes the punch or die of claim 1. Further, claim 13 should be rejoined because it is directed to a tablet which is manufactured using the method as claimed in claim 8. Claim 8 is indirectly dependent on claim 1.

Claims 8-12 and 13, directed to non-elected subject matter, remain in the application. It is requested that they be permitted to remain in a dormant condition pending rejoinder or the possible future filing of a divisional application.

The Examiner accordingly is respectfully requested to withdraw the present restriction requirement, and proceed with the examination on the merits of the claims of Groups I, II and III.

Respectfully submitted,

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